conditions for a few decades and finally emplace in deep geological repositories which have to be chosen with great care and after extensive studies. With this approach towards safe disposal of radioactive waste, any fear of the hazard of the waste to the people is unwarranted. The very basis of the approach of waste disposal to ensure safety of public and the environment.

Unit Cost of Nuclear Power Generation

1561. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to State:

(a) the average per unit cost of nuclear power generation during the last five years;

(b) whether the cost includes cost of uranium and heavy water; if not, per unit cost of uranium and heavy water; and

(c) whether the cost includes cost of waste disposal and decommissioning; if not, the cost involved per unit on the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) The average cost per unit excluding returns on equity and levies of nuclear power generation during the last five years are given below:—

Years	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
Average cost of power generation Paise/Kwh	125	116	123	133	151

(b) Yes, Sir. This cost includes charges towards uranium (fuel) and heavy water.

(c) The above cost includes cost of management of waste at the station and does not include decommissioning levy of 2 paise/Kwh.